

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-020

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: Palliative Care Home Visits

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

Very few GPs undertake home visits. Do you believe that GPs would be more willing to pay home visits if there was a Medicare Benefits schedule item for palliative care home visits?

Answer:

No.

Current MBS general practice attendance items are designed to reward GPs who spend more time with patients who have complex health needs. In particular, the reimbursement for MBS items 36 and 44 (Level C and D respectively) is intended to compensate doctors who provide services, either in consulting rooms or during home visits, to patients with complex needs, such as elderly people and people who require palliative care.